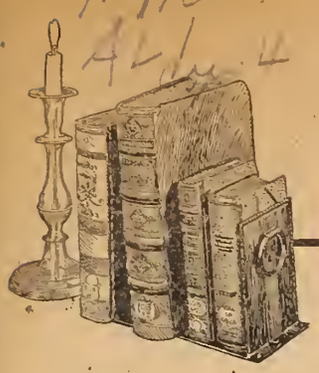

LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

U.S. DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE

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Vol. 2, No. 6
December, 1943

PLOWMAN'S FOLLY
Edward H. Faulkner
University of Oklahoma Press, 1943.

E. H. Faulkner's book "Plowman's Folly" has become the subject of discussion and debate throughout the country since its publication last July. Mr. Faulkner blames most of the physical ailments from which our cultivated lands and crops suffer upon the moldboard plow. Quoting from "Plowman's Folly": "The moldboard plow .... is the least satisfactory implement for the preparation of land for the production of crops .... by plowing we have gone contrary to the laws of Nature ..., plowing has created problems of erosion, sour soils, mounting floods, lowering water-table, vanishing plant life, compact and impervious soils. The plow buries organic matter, it becomes a blotter absorbing moisture from above and below thus creating a condition of permanent drought in the surface soil. Plowing increases the loss of plant nutrients through leaching. .... No scientific reason for plowing has ever been advanced. By simply correcting the basic error - by incorporating all of the organic matter into the surface of the soil .... the difficulties will all disappear as if by magic."

Mr. Faulkner also contends that there is but little difference in the inherent productive capacity of various soil types - that differences in yields result from improper cultural practices. That the use of commercial fertilizers will become unnecessary when plowing is discontinued .... that nutritional deficiences in both men and animals would largely disappear, and that insect pests and plant disease as well as weeds can be eliminated through the adoption of "the new agriculture which is relatively old."

Some of the ideas advanced by Mr. Faulkner are highly theoritical and are not supported by experimental evidence. Many of the practices he advocates have been tested out by State Experiment Stations and by agencies of the Department of Agriculture. There is no doubt that we have plowed too much. For years there has been a gradual movement away from plowing to other means of cultivation which would offer greater protection to the soil surface against the action of wind and water.

You will find the book extremely interesting, and challenging. You may disagree with many of Mr. Faulkner's ideas, but at the same time you may find it difficult to arrive at a satisfactory answer to the questions he raises.

M. R. Isaacson

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

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SOME SUGGESTED NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

1. I will visit the Library at least once a month and occasionally read a book.

2. I will share my copy of the LIBRARY NEWSLETTER with others, and call it to the attention of new employees.

3. I will return library books promptly so overdue notices will not have to be sent to me.

4. I will not let magazines lie on my desk unread, but will send them on or have them sent on within the three day time limit in order that others may read them.

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BOTANY

BOUNTY OF THE WAYSIDE. Walter B. Wilder. Doubleday, Doran & Co. N. Y. 1943. 120 W642.

A book on edible wild plants. The natural bounty of our countryside revealed through the rambles of a grandfather with his grandson. They found wild onions, herbs, edible mushrooms, plant leaves for salads, and wild berries. The older man's dictums led to unhappy consequences for the author, but gives the book many mirthful pages. Recipes are also given for these edible wild plants.

Diseases of the rose in Arizona. Ariz. Agri. Exp. Sta. B-190. October, 1943.

THE GREEN EARTH, an invitation to botany. H. W. Rickett. Jaques Cattell Press. 1943. 463 R42.

This is a layman's guide to botany. We learn that plants are complex living beings like us. We learn that out lives are secondary to theirs because we must depend on them for our very existence. Almost all the green substances of the plant world are commonly called chlorophyll, leaf-green... called the most important material in the world. If by some accident all the chlorophyll of the earth should disappear, all life would cease as soon as present stores of food were exhausted.

CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

CONSERVATION OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES. Loomis Havemeyer and Others. Macmillan. 1935. 279 V26.

The first popular presentation of the subject of conservation of natural resources in the United States presented to the general public. The United States contains within its borders the greatest natural potentialities of any nation on earth. The real problem of conservation, then, is plainly a problem of efficient development and wise utilization. At this time when we are aiming to prevent "waste" to guard against "want", we might well take inventory so that we may determine approximately where we stand.

CONSERVATION OF RENEWABLE NATURAL RESOURCES. Some fundamental aspects of the problem. A symposium by: Raphael Zon, William S. Cooper, Gustaf A. Pearson, Homer L. Shantz, A. E. Douglass, Charles G. Abbot, Paul B. Sears, Ellsworth Huntington, Morris L. Cooke, Samuel T. Dana, Milton S. Eisenhower and Julian F. McGowin. Univ. of Pennsylvania Press. 1941. 279.12 P38.

THIS IS OUR WORLD. Paul B. Sears. Univ. of Oklahoma Press. 1937. 280 Se12.

Paul Sears is an eminent scientist who has not only acquired a broad understanding of the relationships existing between the various natural and social sciences, but who possesses the ability to portray these relationships in writing. THIS IS OUR WORLD is a thesis for the conservationist, but it is so unlike the usual starched presentation, that it becomes a gallant, almost gay challenge to the evils of waste. It sets forth lightly, often humorously, facts and theories that have been the almost concealed property of trained biologists. The pencil drawings by the author adds to the thought developed in the text.

ECONOMICS

ECONOMICS WITH APPLICATIONS TO AGRICULTURE. E. F. Dummeier and R. B. Heflebower. McGraw-Hill. 1940. 281 D89.

The book was begun with the object of supplying a text which would present the generally accepted principles of economics, clearly, thoroughly and comprehensively, and which also would apply these principles to present day problems of agriculture. Even though the last revision was printed in 1940 the principles of trade and production, labor and wages, taxation, the farm problem and the government remain the same.

THE FARM BLOC. Wosley McCune. Doubleday, Doran. 1943. 281.12 M13.

Since the Farm Bloc has been making newspaper headlines for many months, Department employees should have a proper understanding of this group. The following are some of the questions which are answered in the book: What is the farm Bloc? Who are its leaders? Does it really represent the farmers? Why is it after higher prices during a war? What is parity?

MIGRATION AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY. The report of the study of population redistribution. Carter Goodrich and Others. Univ. of Penn. Press. 1936. 280.12 G62.

"This analysis of living conditions in various regions of the country points to four major problem areas: the Southern Appalachian, the Old Cotton Belt, the Lake States Cutover, and the Great Plains regions. For each of these regions, an attempt is made to answer the question of to what extent, if at all, is emigration from the problem area likely to be desirable or necessary."

PLANNING FOR AMERICA. G. B. Galloway. Henry Holt. N. Y. 1941. 280.12 G13p.

A convenient reference on planning activities in various fields; resources, economic and social.

FARMING

Fertilizer consumption in 1941 and trends in usage. USDA C-689. Oct. 1943.

Growing barley for malt and feed. USDA FB-1732. November 1943.

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO SUCCESSFUL FARMING. Edited by W. S. Moreland. Halcyon House. N. Y. 1943. 30 M81.

A comprehensive, authoritative, and up-to-date encyclopedia of farming written by 36 recognized agricultural authorities, with special emphasis on the selection and operation of a small farm for security and income.

Winter storage of strawberry plants. USDA C-669. October 1943.

FOOD

Nutrition and food supply; The war and after. Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science. Philadelphia. Vol. 225. January 1943.

Subsidies as a solution for the squeeze, with special reference to the food industry Hector Lazo. Washington, D. C. 1942.

FORESTRY

Operating small sawmills in wartime. USDA MP-509. 1943.

White pine blister rust in western North America. J. L. Mielko. Yale University School of Forestry. B-52. 1943.

ECONOMICS OF PRIVATE FORESTRY. Ralph W. Marquis. McGraw-Hill. 1939. 99.7 M34.

"The purpose of this volume is to consider the economic problems that affect the private forest operator in relation to his plans for sustained yield or liquidation."

HYDROLOGY

THE ELEMENTS OF HYDROLOGY. A. F. Meyer. John Wiley. 1928. 292 M57.

PRINCIPAL FEDERAL SOURCES OF HYDROLOGIC DATA. National Resources Planning Board. Washington, D. C. Technical Paper No. 10. May 1943. 173.2 N214.

STATE WATER LAW IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WEST. National Resources Planning Board. Washington, D. C. June 1943. 173.2 N214.

INSECTS and INSECTICIDES

Effectiveness of wood preservatives in preventing attack by termites. USDA C-683.

GENERAL ENTOMOLOGY. S. W. Frost. McGraw-Hill. 1942. 422 F923G.

This book, as the name implies, is general in nature and attempts to cover all phases of the subject.

Preventing insect damage in home-dried fruits. USDA. L-235. 1943.

INSECTS and INSECTICIDES (con't)

Studies on nicotine fumigation in greenhouses. USDA C-684. 1943.

IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE

Improving land for irrigation. New Mexico Agr. Exp. Sta. PB-981. 1943.

LAND DRAINAGE AND RECLAMATION. O. C. Ayres and D. Scoates. McGraw. 1939. 54Ay7.

A practical reference for farmers and practicing engineers. In addition to discussing surface-drainage, considerable space is given to the forming of drainage districts, leveling, land clearing, and terracing.

TEN YEARS OF INTEGRAL LAND-RECLAMATION UNDER THE MUSSOLINI ACT. Giuseppe Tassinari. Fratelli Lega. Faeza, Italy. 1939. 54 T18.

An interesting account of the transformation of farm enterprises as a result of land-reclamation in Italy.

LAND USE

THE EJIDO, MEXICO'S WAY OUT. Eyler N. Simpson. Univ. of North Carolina Press. 1937. 282 Si52E.

Dr. Simpson was Associate in Mexico for the Institute of Current world Affairs from 1927 to 1934, and also taught in the University of Mexico.

The book deals with the modern land tenure problem of Mexico in a thorough and comprehensive manner. The term ejido is used to refer to all types of lands which have been restored or granted to agricultural communities under the land reform initiated in 1915. In addition to being the outstanding book on the program of land reform, this book will be of great value to land economists and resettlement programs in the Southwest. Although there is little similarity in the land problems, some of the basic human and economic issues are surprisingly alike.

Information for prospective settlers in Alaska. Alaska Agr. Exp. Sta. C-1. 1941.

Land conditions in Venezuela and their relations to agriculture and human welfare. D. S. Hubbell, H. H. Bennett and M. R. Hull. USDA. SCS. Washington, D.C.

LIVESTOCK

Common ailments and first aid treatment of livestock. New Mexico Agr. Ext. Service. C-153. September 1943.

Fourteen years cattle production and ranch earning power in Northeastern Nevada, 1928 to 1941. Nevada Agr. Exp. Sta. B-165. 1943.

Range and livestock production practices in the Southwest. USDA. MP-529. 1943.

RANGE BEEF PRODUCTION IN THE SEVENTEEN WESTERN STATES. Fred S. Hultz. John Wiley. 1930. 43 H872.

The author attempts to picture the range beef-cattle business as a whole and includes the essential, successful ranch practices in the western country which differ materially from the methods used in other parts of the United States.

PASTURES

The fertilization of irrigated pastures. Oregon State College. n. d.

Pastures. Utah Agr. Ext. Service. N. S. 120. June, 1943.

Revegetation of meadows, pastures, ranges. USDA. SCS. Lincoln, Nebraska. 1942.

The value of irrigated pastures for dairy cattle. Oregon Agr. Expt. Sta. B-366. 1939.

PLANNING

Estimates of future population of the United States, 1940-2000. National Resources Planning Board. Washington, D. C. August, 1943.

Reconversion of industry to peace. National Planning Association. Washington, D. C. Pamphlet No. 24. November, 1943.

World needs for U. S. food and fiber. National Planning Association. Washington, D. C. Planning Pamphlets No. 25 and 26. November, 1943.

WILDLIFE

FIELD BOOK OF NORTH AMERICAN MAMMALS. Descriptions of every mammal known north of the Rio Grande, together with brief accounts of habits, geographical ranges, etc. H. E. Anthony. Putnam's Sons. 1935. 412.1 An8.

Techniques of fishpond management. L. V. Compton. USDA MP-528. November 1943